

RECORDS OF THE GREAT NATIONAL STRUGGLE

Stories Eminently Worth Telling of Experiences and Adventures in the Great National Struggle.

MISSIONARY RIDGE.

A Vivid Story of the Opening of the Battle on the North End.

Editor National Tribune: So far as I know it is still uncertain to what troops of the Army of the Cumberland belongs the honor of being the first to stand on the summit of Missionary Ridge, but I claim the honor for Co. I, 20th Ohio. Now, for the proof. The 20th Ohio belonged to the Second Brigade, Second Division, Fifth Corps. As all old soldiers know, this corps, which had just arrived from Vicksburg, was hidden behind the hills in the north side of the Tennessee River on the evening of Nov. 23, 1863. About midnight we marched down to the river, where we found a number of cotton boats, which had been hidden in North Chickamauga Creek, and manned by a number of our First Bri-

deep. The point that we were threatening was a vital one, for it had succeeded in carrying these works Bragg's retreat would have been cut off, and he was weakening his center to protect his flank. It was this error, no doubt, which enabled the Army of the Cumberland to carry the ridge in their splendid charge in the afternoon.

The Battle Opens.

About 10 o'clock, or possibly later, an order came to me to charge the rebel lines. I had been observing what was going on behind me, and supposed that the order was to us alone, and exclaimed, "Thunder!" Do they expect me to take those works with my 40 men? But orders were orders, and we started, and then the infernal regions seemed to break loose. Shell, grape, canister and bullets seemed to fill the air. Fortunately they all went over our heads.



"WE COULD COUNT THE MUZZLES OF 12 PIECES OF ARTILLERY."

gade, who floated down the river, landed and captured all but one of the rebel boats. We immediately commenced crossing and throwing up intrenchments to protect the landing. At daylight I was ordered out on the skirmish line with my company. We advanced slowly to give time for the bridge to be built and the remainder of the troops to cross. The day was foggy and drizzly, and we could see but short distances. All day long we could hear the thunder of the battle which Hooker was fighting miles away above the clouds. Near sundown, possibly about 2 p. m., we reached the Atlanta Railroad, which runs close around the point of the ridge. Here we halted to correct our lines and a few minutes later I saw a column of troops approaching, which halted, and the commanding officer, Lieut. Col. Von Blesing, of the 27th Ohio, rode up and told me that he had been ordered to carry the ridge, and asked if I would go ahead with my company as skirmishers. We had not seen any rebels, and therefore felt very brave, and I replied that I thought we could. I gave the order, and we went on the run. We reached the summit just in time to meet a rebel line, which was not at all surprised. But this was not all. When the morning of the 25th dawned we found that the hill we had taken was not the main ridge, but a large detached knob, separated from the main ridge by a deep and narrow ravine through which ran a wagon track. Soon after daylight Gen. Sherman came up on the knob, and a few minutes later an order came to me and Capt. Warner, of Co. E, to take our companies and carry the point of the main ridge, where the rebels had a line of rifle pits. The men were still digging when the order came, and they threw down their shovels, picked up their guns, formed their line and started. It was the understanding that they were to advance firing, then halt behind trees, land and advance again; but once started this was forgotten, and they went on the run. The men were still digging when the order came, and they threw down their shovels, picked up their guns, formed their line and started. It was the understanding that they were to advance firing, then halt behind trees, land and advance again; but once started this was forgotten, and they went on the run.

This is the first ground of our claim, for we found no other Union troops on the summit when it reached us. But this was not all. When the morning of the 25th dawned we found that the hill we had taken was not the main ridge, but a large detached knob, separated from the main ridge by a deep and narrow ravine through which ran a wagon track. Soon after daylight Gen. Sherman came up on the knob, and a few minutes later an order came to me and Capt. Warner, of Co. E, to take our companies and carry the point of the main ridge, where the rebels had a line of rifle pits. The men were still digging when the order came, and they threw down their shovels, picked up their guns, formed their line and started. It was the understanding that they were to advance firing, then halt behind trees, land and advance again; but once started this was forgotten, and they went on the run.

Octave Townsend and his wife, Metamora, Mich., support bills Nos. 2,431 and 2,959 for the benefit of veterans' widows' pension bills.

Widows' Pensions.

Octave Townsend and his wife, Metamora, Mich., support bills Nos. 2,431 and 2,959 for the benefit of veterans' widows' pension bills.

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STEVENSON'S BRIGADE.

Its Part in the Assault on Vicksburg.

Editor National Tribune: As a friend of the old soldiers, who are fighting their battles in season and out of season, in the halls of Congress as well as in private life, recording the history of our past struggle for the preservation of the Union, and in view of the very correct account of the siege of Vicksburg, in Mississippi, in which you paid a just tribute to and gave the Third Brigade (Stevenson's), Third Division (Logan's), Seventeenth Corps, proper credit for the assault made on the rebel works just to the south of the city, I am glad to see in the issue of your valuable paper of Jan. 7, page 7, under the heading, "The Seventeenth Corps," where, in answer to inquiry of Drury Hall, McKean, Mo., you say:

"The Third Brigade, Third Division, Seventeenth Corps, was commanded by Col. John D. Stevenson, and consisted of the 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 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